

1 **CLAIMS**

2 **1.** A computer system comprising:

3 an infrared (IR) transceiver;

4 a port detector to detect which communication ports are available, the
5 communication ports having corresponding virtual port names; and

6 a port renaming module to identify at least one of the communication ports
7 as being associated with the IR transceiver and to rename the one communication
8 port from its corresponding virtual port name to a different virtual port name.

9
10 **2.** A computer system of claim 1, wherein the different virtual port name

11 is descriptive to inform a user that the corresponding communication port is
12 associated with the IR transceiver.

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14 **3.** A computer system of claim 1, wherein the port detector is configured

15 to cycle through the communication ports and attempt to open the communication
16 ports, the port detector using results from the attempts to determine whether the
17 communication ports are available.

18
19 **4.** A computer system of claim 1, further comprising a system registry

20 that contains configuration parameters of the computer system, wherein the port
21 renaming module is configured to check the system registry to identify the one
22 communication port associated with the IR transceiver.

1 5. A computer system of claim 1, wherein the port renaming module is
2 configured to rename the communication port associated with the IR transceiver
3 from the different virtual port name back to the corresponding virtual port name.
4

5 6. A computer system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface to
6 present a list of the virtual port names along with the different virtual port name.
7

8 7. An operating system, embodied on a computer-readable medium,
9 comprising:

10 computer-executable instructions to detect which communication ports of a
11 computer are available, the communication ports having corresponding virtual port
12 names; and

13 computer-executable instructions to identify at least one of the
14 communication ports as being used for communicating with an infrared (IR)
15 device and to rename the one communication port from its corresponding virtual
16 port name to a different virtual port name.
17

18 8. An operating system of claim 7, wherein the different virtual port
19 name is descriptive to inform a user that the corresponding communication port is
20 associated with the IR device.
21

22 9. An operating system of claim 7, further comprising computer-
23 executable instructions to attempt to open each of the communication ports as a
24 way to determine whether the communication ports are available.
25

1 **10.** An operating system of claim 7, further comprising computer-
2 executable instructions to rename the communication port associated with the IR
3 device from the different virtual port name back to the corresponding virtual port
4 name.

5
6 **11.** An operating system of claim 7, further comprising computer-
7 executable instructions to present a list of virtual port names along with the
8 different virtual port name.

9
10 **12.** A computer comprising:
11 a processor; and
12 the operating system of claim 7, embodied on the computer-readable
13 medium, and executed on the processor.

14
15 **13.** A computer program module, embodied on a computer-readable
16 medium, comprising:
17 computer-executable instructions to identify a communication port for use
18 in communicating with an infrared (IR) device; and
19 computer-executable instructions to rename the communication port to a
20 descriptive virtual port name.

21
22 **14.** A computer program module of claim 13, further comprising
23 computer-executable instructions to present the descriptive virtual port name in a
24 user interface.

25

1 **15.** A computer program module of claim 13, further comprising
2 computer-executable instructions to rename the communication port associated
3 with the IR device from the descriptive virtual port name to another virtual port
4 name.

5
6 **16.** An operating system incorporating the computer program module of
7 claim 13.

8
9 **17.** A computer program module, embodied on a computer-readable
10 medium, comprising:

11 computer-executable instructions to rename a communication port for use in
12 communicating with an infrared (IR) device from a first virtual port name to a
13 second virtual port name; and

14 computer-executable instructions to present the second virtual port name in
15 a user interface.

16
17 **18.** A computer program module of claim 17, further comprising
18 computer-executable instructions to rename the communication port associated
19 with the IR device from the second virtual port name back to the first virtual port
20 name.

21
22 **19.** An operating system incorporating the computer program module of
23 claim 17.

1 **20.** A computer-implemented method, comprising:
2 detecting available communication ports, the communication ports having
3 corresponding virtual port names;
4 identifying at least one of the communication ports as being used in
5 communication with an infrared (IR) device; and
6 renaming the one communication port from its corresponding virtual port
7 name to a different virtual port name.

8
9 **21.** A computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the detecting
10 comprises attempting to open the communication ports as a way to determine
11 whether the communication ports are available.

12
13 **22.** A computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the
14 identifying comprises checking a system registry to identify the one
15 communication port associated with the IR device.

16
17 **23.** A computer-implemented method of claim 20, further comprising
18 presenting a list of the virtual port names along with the different virtual port
19 name.

20
21 **24.** A computer-implemented method of claim 20, further comprising
22 renaming the one communication port from the different virtual port name back to
23 the corresponding virtual port name.

1 **25.** A computer-implemented method, comprising:
2 identifying a communication port that is used for communicating with an
3 infrared (IR) device; and
4 renaming the communication port from a first virtual port name to a second
5 virtual port name.

6
7 **26.** A computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising
8 presenting the second virtual port name to a user.

9
10 **27.** A computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising
11 renaming the communication port associated with the IR device from the second
12 virtual port name back to the first virtual port name.

13
14 **28.** A computer-implemented method, comprising:
15 renaming a communication port associated with an infrared (IR) device
16 from a first virtual port name to a second virtual port name; and
17 presenting the second virtual port name to a user.

18
19 **29.** A computer-implemented method of claim 28, further comprising
20 renaming the communication port associated with the IR device from the second
21 virtual port name back to the first virtual port name.